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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Forty-fourth session
Vienna, 6-15 June 2001

Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session

I. Provisional agenda

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5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-eighth session.
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8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
9. Enlargement of the membership of the Committee.
10. Other matters.
11. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

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II. Annotations*

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee and the organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its forty-third session. The indicative schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present document.

3. General exchange of views

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views.

4. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

In paragraph 41 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

In paragraph 30 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should include in the agendas of its forty-fourth to forty-seventh sessions an item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

In accordance with paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 55/122, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, considered through its Working Group of the Whole the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations made by the Working Group of the Whole concerning the mechanism to implement recommendations of UNISPACE III and the modalities for the engagement of non-governmental entities as well as the implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (A/AC.105/761, annex II, paras. 3-14).

The Working Group of the Whole agreed that recommendations of UNISPACE III could be assessed and implemented through the voluntary leadership of individual member States and their appropriate governmental institutions on particular actions (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 7). The Working Group recommended that a survey should be conducted among member States to identify the level of interest and priority for each action constituting the nucleus of a strategy, contained in the resolution of UNISPACE III entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[1] to address global challenges in the future.

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* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

[1] *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

Through that survey, each member State would indicate whether it wished to be the leader or a member of the team to carry out the recommended action and identify non-governmental entities that might wish to be members of the team (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 8). As requested by the Working Group, the Office for Outer Space Affairs circulated the questionnaire to Member States, in note verbale OOSA/2001.03, dated 13 March 2001. The Committee will have before it the results of the survey (A/AC.105/L.234). As agreed by the Working Group, informal consultations will be held by the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee during the forty-fourth session of the Committee in order to reach consensus on the leader and identify members for each recommended action. Time will be allocated to the informal consultations during the consideration of the item.

The Working Group of the Whole agreed that, as part of the phase of assessment and establishment of priorities, expert groups might be established to conduct research, analyse and make recommendations on particular actions (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 9). In particular, concerning the implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system, the Working Group of the Whole agreed to establish an expert group. As agreed by the Working Group, the Office for Outer Space Affairs invited Member States, in note verbale OOSA/2001.02, dated 2 March 2001, to provide the Office with their nominees for the expert group. The Chairman of the expert group would be elected by its members, and the election would be subject to approval by the Committee (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 10). The Committee will have before it a list of experts nominated by Member States (A/AC.105/L.233).

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/68, the terms of reference of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications were modified to include the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, and the Secretary-General invited all States, in note verbale OOSA/2000.09 dated 26 July 2000, to contribute voluntarily to the Trust Fund and included in his invitation the list of priority projects and activities as recommended by the Committee at its forty-third session.[2] As requested by the Assembly, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will provide the Committee with a report listing those States that have responded to the invitation (A/AC.105/L.231).

6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-eighth session

In accordance with paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 51/122, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session considered the substantive items listed below.

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

The report of the Subcommittee contains a review of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 2000 and 2001 and the proposed programme of activities for 2002, which it recommended for approval (A/AC.105/761, paras. 30-44).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 87.

Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

The views expressed on this item at the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/761, paras.59-63).

Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item under the work plan adopted at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix). The Subcommittee had before it working papers submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.246 and 247), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/AC.105/C.1/L.242 and 245) and the United States of America (A/AC.105/C.1/L.244), as well as a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (A/AC.105/754) and a note by the Secretariat containing information submitted by Member States in response to a recommendation of the Committee at its forty-third session [3] (A/AC.105/751 and Add.1).

In accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 55/122, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. Through the Working Group, the Subcommittee reviewed national and international processes, proposals and standards and national working papers relevant to the launch and peaceful uses of nuclear sources in outer space (A/AC.105/761, para. 64). The report of the Working Group was endorsed by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/761, paras. 73 and 74, and annex III).

The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space reached preliminary agreement upon a draft outline of the report called for in the work plan (see A/AC.105/761, annex III, appendix). The Working Group welcomed the offers of the delegations of France, the Russian Federation and the United States and the observer for IAEA to prepare draft texts for consideration and agreed that, depending on the timing of the submission of additional draft texts, it might be both feasible and beneficial to conduct informal consultations among interested members of the Working Group during the forty-fourth session of the Committee, with a view to advancing the development of the report called for in the work plan.

The Subcommittee noted that the Committee, at its forty-third session, had recalled its agreement that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992, should remain in their current form until amended and that, before amendment, proper consideration should be given to the aims and objectives of any proposed revision.[4] The Subcommittee agreed that, at the present time, revision of the Principles was not warranted and that, until a firm scientific and technical consensus had been reached on their revision, it would be inappropriate to pass on the topic to the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/761, para. 68).

[3] Ibid., para. 99.

[4] Ibid., para. 96.

Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee began its consideration of this new item under the work plan adopted at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 40). The Subcommittee analysed the current levels of usage of space applications and services within the United Nations system and examined the utility of space applications and services for increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of the operations of United Nations entities with regard to space activities.

The Subcommittee had before it the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on the deliberations at its twenty-first session (A/AC.105/756) and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2001 and 2002 and future years" (A/AC.105/757). The Subcommittee also had before it a note by the Secretariat containing an analysis of the replies from organizations of the United Nations system to a list of questions circulated by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/C.1/L.241 and Corr.1 and Add.1). During the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, a forum was held on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in space-related areas (A/AC.105/761, para. 77).

The Subcommittee invited the Inter-Agency Meeting to consider at its twenty-second session the barriers to the use of space technology, the theme that would be considered by the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session. The Subcommittee also invited the Inter-Agency Meeting to consider how the Subcommittee could support the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting and the space-related activities of organizations in the United Nations system (A/AC.105/761, para. 81).

Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee began its consideration of this new item under the work plan adopted at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 41) and reviewed the types of natural disasters being faced and the extent of the application of space-based services being utilized for their mitigation. The Subcommittee had before it a working paper submitted by China (A/AC.105/C.1/L.250/Rev.1), a note by the Secretariat containing information of relevance to the work plan received from Member States and international organizations (A/AC.105/753 and Add.1) and a report of the Secretariat on some of the major disaster reduction strategies and ongoing activities worldwide (A/AC.105/758). The findings of the Subcommittee and views expressed at its thirty-eighth session are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/761, paras. 89-113).

Space debris

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this agenda item, on a priority basis, as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee took note of the replies from Member States submitted in response to a request by the Committee at its forty-third session (A/AC.105/751 and Add.1). The Subcommittee had before it a working paper submitted by Canada, China,

France, Germany, India, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (A/AC.105/C.1/L.251/Rev.2) and conference room papers submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/2001/CRP.5), Japan (A/AC.105/C.1/2001/CRP.15) and the Secretariat (A/AC.105/C.1/2001/CRP.13).

A representative of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) made a technical presentation on its activities and its views on reducing space debris from launch vehicles. The Subcommittee agreed that IADC should continue to make a technical presentation on its work on an annual basis (A/AC.105/761, para. 119). The Subcommittee agreed that, starting with its thirty-ninth session, in 2002, it should consider space debris according to the multi-year work plan contained in its report (A/AC.105/761, para. 130).

Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. Concerning the question of frequency interference with radio astronomy, the Subcommittee had before it a report by the secretariat of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (A/AC.105/C.1/L.243). Observers for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Astronomical Union (IAU) made presentations on the status of their work. The Subcommittee agreed that ITU, IAU and OECD should be invited to give presentations on the status of their work on frequency interference with radio astronomy at the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/761, para. 141). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/761, paras. 139-144).

Government and private activities to promote education in space science and engineering

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this new agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Activities of Member States for young people", containing a compilation of contributions from Member States on the subject (A/AC.105/755 and Add.1). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/761, paras. 149-151).

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 55/122, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee requested its Working Group of the Whole to consider a draft provisional agenda for its thirty-ninth session. The recommendations of the Working Group are contained in its report (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 17).

The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member

States, be invited to organize a symposium on the theme "Remote sensing for substantive water management in arid and semi-arid countries", with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 21). The Working Group of the Whole also recalled its agreement that the annual symposium on strengthening the partnership with industry, to be held during the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, should focus on the promising area of very high resolution remote sensing and its impact on operational applications and should discuss the new space market situation (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 22).

7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fortieth session

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 55/122, the Legal Subcommittee at its fortieth session considered the substantive items listed below.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The Subcommittee had before it the publication *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space* (A/AC.105/572/Rev.3 and A/AC.105/722) and updated information on ratifications and signatures of the outer space treaties (A/AC.105/722/Add.1).

The Subcommittee agreed that, at its forty-first session, in 2002, a working group on the item should be established, the terms of reference of which would include the status of the treaties, review of their implementation and obstacles to their universal acceptance, as well as promotion of space law, especially through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/763, para. 119). The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/763, paras. 25-34).

Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The Subcommittee had before it two documents (A/AC.105/C.2/L.223 and A/AC.105/C.2/2001/CRP.9), which contained compilations of reports from international organizations on their activities relating to space law. The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/763, paras. 41-48).

Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item as a single issue/item for discussion. Discussions in the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/763, para. 68-70).

Matters relating to: (a) the definition and delimitation of outer space; and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The Subcommittee had before it notes by the Secretariat entitled "Comprehensive

analysis of the replies to the questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.204) and "Questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects: replies from member States" (A/AC.105/635 and Adds.1-5), which had been before the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions, respectively. The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/763, paras. 54-64).

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/122, paragraph 7, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on item 6 (a) only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The Working Group agreed that, as very few replies had been received in response to the questionnaire on aerospace objects, member States should be requested to consider submitting or updating replies to the questionnaire. The Working Group also agreed that the Secretariat should prepare, for its next session, in 2002, a brief historical summary of the consideration by the Legal Subcommittee of the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space, indicating points of consensus, if any, that had emerged over the years. The Working Group further agreed that member States should be invited to make presentations to the Working Group during the forty-first session of the Subcommittee, in 2002, on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space and what their practices had been (A/AC.105/763, annex I, paras. 9, 11 and 12). The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (see A/AC.105/763, para. 66 and annex I).

Consideration of the draft convention of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) on international interests in mobile equipment and the preliminary draft protocol thereto on matters specific to space property

The Legal Subcommittee began its consideration of this new item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee had before it a report of the Secretariat and the secretariat of Unidroit (A/AC.105/C.2/L.225), conference room papers containing the texts of the draft Unidroit convention on international interests in mobile equipment and the preliminary draft protocol thereto on matters specific to space property (A/AC.105/C.2/2001/CRP.3 and CRP.4, respectively) and working papers submitted by the secretariat of Unidroit (A/AC.105/C.2/L.227) and by the members and cooperating States of the European Space Agency that are members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/L.229). The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/763, paras. 74-94).

The Subcommittee agreed to the establishment of an ad hoc consultative mechanism to review the issues relating to this item. The mechanism would make it possible to undertake preparatory work, to hold informal consultations during the forty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in June 2001, and, if necessary, inter-sessional consultations at the convenience of interested member States, with the participation of the representatives of the Secretariat of the Subcommittee, and to which representatives of the secretariat of Unidroit and relevant specialized international organizations might also be invited, with a view to facilitating the work of the Subcommittee in examining in detail the numerous issues relating to the topic within a time frame appropriate to the importance of the initiative. The mechanism would act under the aegis of the Legal Subcommittee and the results of consultations undertaken through the mechanism would be reported to

the Subcommittee at its forty-first session, in 2002, for its consideration and endorsement, as it deemed appropriate (A/AC.105/763, para. 95).

Review of the concept of the "launching State"

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee.[5] The Subcommittee had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Review of existing national space legislation illustrating how States are implementing, as appropriate, their responsibilities to authorize and provide continuing supervision of non-governmental entities in outer space" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.224), a compilation of documents containing background material on the work plan, extracts of national laws relevant to the concept of the "launching State" and examples of multilateral and bilateral agreements relevant to the concept of the launching State (A/AC.105/C.2/2001/CRP.5) and a compilation of presentations made on the item at the fortieth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.2/2001/CRP.10).

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/122, paragraph 8, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group to consider the item. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (see A/AC.105/763, para. 106 and annex II). The Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to prepare for its forty-first session a document containing: (a) a synthesis of State practice in applying the concept of the "launching State"; (b) questions regarding the application of the concept of the "launching State" arising from State practice and from new developments in space activities; and (c) elements that could be included in national space legislation and licensing regimes (A/AC.105/763, annex II, para. 4).

Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-first session

Discussions on the matter are reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/763, paras. 108-125). The Subcommittee agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its forty-first session, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/763, para. 124).

8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

In paragraph 42 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-fourth session, its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

9. Enlargement of the membership of the Committee

In paragraph 39 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly requested the Committee to include in the agenda of its forty-fourth session an item on the enlargement of its membership. In paragraph 40 of the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged Member States to hold informal consultations on the enlargement of membership of the Committee during the thirty-eighth session of the

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20), para. 114.

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and, if necessary, during the fortieth session of the Legal Subcommittee, with a view to reaching consensus agreement on the matter at the forty-fourth session of the Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee held informal consultations on the matter on 16 February 2001, during the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and made a proposal concerning the enlargement of membership of the Committee in 2001 and consideration of the membership of the Committee after 2001 (A/AC.105/L.230).

10. Other matters

(a) Observer status

The European Association for International Space Year (EURISY) and the National Space Society, both of which are non-governmental organizations, have applied for observer status with the Committee. Consideration of their applications for observer status should take place at the forty-fourth session of the Committee. The Committee will have before it related correspondence and statutes of those organizations, which were circulated during the fortieth session of the Legal Subcommittee for the information of States members of the Committee (A/AC.105/C.2/2001/CRP.7).

(b) Other matters

The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

11. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

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Symposium to be held during the forty-fourth session of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 43 of General Assembly resolution 55/122, a symposium on the theme "The human dimension in space science and technology applications" will be organized on the afternoon of 11 June 2001.

Annex

Indicative schedule of work*

Date	*Agenda item*	*Morning*	*Agenda item*	*Afternoon*
Wednesday, 6 June 2001	1	Adoption of the agenda	3	General exchange of views
	2	Statement by the Chairman	4	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
	3	General exchange of views		
Thursday, 7 June 2001	3	General exchange of views	5	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III
	4	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-eighth session
	5	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III		
Friday, 8 June 2001	5	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III	5	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III
	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-eighth session	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-eighth session
			9	Enlargement of the membership of the Committee
Monday, 11 June 2001	5	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III		Symposium on the theme "The human dimension in space science and technology applications"
	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-eighth session		
	9	Enlargement of the membership of the Committee		
Tuesday, 12 June 2001	5	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fortieth session
	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-eighth session	8	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fortieth session		
	9	Enlargement of the membership of the Committee		
Wednesday, 13 June 2001	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fortieth session	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fortieth session
	8	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status		
Thursday, 14 June 2001	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fortieth session	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fortieth session
	10	Other matters	10	Other matters
Friday, 15 June 2001	11	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	11	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee agreed that member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 169 (b)).